Yafa'i circles in the Hadhramaut. Some of the Seiyids of the Hadhramaut have an enigmatical way of speaking Arabic amongst themselves.

Currency.

The currency consists of rupees and Maria Theresa dollars. The exchange value of the latter depends on the price of silver, and in November 1934, when much of the information contained in this report was collected, the dollar was practically equivalent to a rupee. For this reason the two denominations were often used indifferently. By mid-May 1935, the rate was Rs.149 to $100 in Aden and Rs.150 to $100 in Mukalla.

Small change is almost entirely British Indian, though there are a few Mukalla pice, a little Javanese money, and some Italian lire from Somaliland. Indian notes circulate fairly freely in Mukalla. The copper coins are called *besa* and the other Indian change *shauli bauli*. Generally speaking, any known money will be exchanged. In the towns of the main Wadi many ancient coins pass for small change, and there are also a number of small coins struck by the Al Kaf family. Small change is given for dollars according to their relative value with rupees.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in use in Mukalla are as follows:—

1 Qofla.—The weight of 4 annas.
1 Waqia.—1 English ounce.
1 Ratl.—1 English pound.
1 Frasila.—20 lb. of fish or 32 lb. of shells.
1 Gubban.—25 lb. for gum.
1 Bahar.—10¾ Aden maunds or 300 English lb. of tobacco, or 360 lb. of dates, but dates from the interior 300 lb.
1 Qosra.—180 lb. of Basra dates. Trucial Oman dates are in packages of 70-80 lb. They are of an inferior quality.
1 Ma'bar.—A basket of 30-40 lb. of *Wazif* (dried *'aid* fish).

In Shibam the pound is of 12 ounces; 28 lb. equal 1 *frasila*, and 14 *frasilas* 8 lb. equal one *bahar*.

Measures of Length.

1 Banan—1 finger's breadth.
2 Shubrs—1 Dhirra.
2 Dhirras—1 Wara.
1 Wara—1 Yard.

Measures of Capacity.

As a general rule liquids are sold by weight; there is however a small measure used for oil called a *Baura*. Such a quantity is sold for one or two pice.

Calendar.

For official and sometimes for business purposes, when dealing with Europeans, the date is expressed A.D. as well as A.H., but

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bricks. The cost of building the house in which we stayed in Tarim was $60,000. The exterior of these houses is decorated with blue, green, yellow, and pink, which is not at all unattractive. Interiors are fitted with every up-to-date contrivance, electric light and fans, telephones, ice-plants, and European modern conveniences in the bathrooms, wash-basins with running water and shower-baths. Whereas in Du'an and Shibam there is scarcely a chair to be found, these houses are replete with European furniture, albeit some of a rather florid style. Large and comfortable chairs and sofas decorate the drawing-rooms, and there are English carpets, masses of gilt mirrors, chandeliers and glass cupboards full of marmalade dishes, egg-cups and so on. Living in such houses as these one is struck at every moment with the reflection that there is hardly a thing in the house that has not had to be transported on camel-back over the mountains for six days.

The principal structural detail that the wealthy Seiyids of Tarim and Seiyun have to contend with in their building operations is the difficulty of procuring long enough timber. The *'elb* or *sidr* tree grows to no great height, and although we found *'ariata* trees (*Conocarpus erectus*, Jacq.) growing to 50 feet or more in height some days' journey down the Wadi Maseila, they cannot be transported by camels. The difficulty is being surmounted to some extent by experiments in the making of reinforced concrete pillars of which I saw two in construction at Seiyun. All the work is done by local labour, the travelled Seiyids training their masons. The interior walls of these houses, apart from elaborate decorations such as gold crowns and coloured flowers, are covered with a lime plaster polished with smooth pieces of flint till it resembles marble.

Shibam is remarkable for the height of its houses. The town, which is in the shape of a capital D, contains in a small area 500 houses built on a slight eminence in the Wadi. From a short distance the whole town appears to be one enormous brown mud built construction with a whitewashed top storey and roof. There is no further building room in the town and the only way to have a new house is to buy an old one, knock it down, and rebuild. By general consent, houses in Shibam are not now to be built more than six storeys high in order to avoid overlooking. The only important existing exception to this rule is the Government palace, which is a storey or two higher, but which is in such a position that it overlooks very little. On the top of the six storeys the builder may however erect a roofless seventh which gives him a walled-in roof terrace. The building of this type of house which, when completed, will be 64 *dhirras* or 96 feet high, will cost more than 20,000 dollars. Bigger houses are constructed of two or more houses built together. The life of a house is said to be 200 to 250 years, but the age it reaches depends on the privies being kept dry and cleaned out regularly. If this is not done, the damp saps the lower part of the clay walls and causes splits, necessitating demolition.

361 Outside the walls of Shibam in the rich man's suburb of Seheil
342 there are villas, some of them built in East Indian style but none
177 of them as big as those in the city. Several houses in these Hadhramaut towns are provided with most attractive and welcome swimming pools in which the water is usually kept running by means of small petrol engines.

342 The general principles of house construction seem to be pretty much the same all over the upper Hadhramaut, but it is really only in the main Wadi that elaborate structures are found. Apart from the *dars* in which many of the tribesmen live, and which leave much to be desired from the standpoint of hygiene, it may be interesting to record that in one Wadi through which we travelled, to the north of the main Wadi towards the desert, I found troglodyte Beduins living in caves in the walls of the Wadi. The front of these caves was usually built up with dry stone walling, leaving only a small gap for the entrance of man and beast. Down the Wadi Maseila between Qabr Hud and the sea the Manahil and the Mahra live in huts built of sticks not more than five feet high. In two villages on the Mahra coast many of the inhabitants lived in tents of matting.

Wages and Cost of Living in the Towns.

000 The manner of living adopted by the wealthy of the Hadhramaut and by the tribesmen is sufficiently indicated in other parts of this report. The following notes give an indication of the condition of the wage-earning classes in the towns.

511 For labourers the cost of living is said to be cheaper in Mukalla
● 435 than in Aden. Firewood and water are free, and there is nothing to pay in the way of ground rent. Rents are very low; as an example, a large building of five storeys costing Rs.15,000 to build would not fetch Rs.20 a month in rent. There is no tax
651 on property. The people in the towns pay their tithes straight to
735 the poor and not to Government.

465 Masons and carpenters receive a rupee and a-half a day, and
495 their assistants nine to ten annas. Labourers generally receive from nine to twelve annas a day. Coolies on ships are paid twelve annas and food. In Mukalla, porters receive from one pice to two annas a load according to distance. From the Customs to the western gate of the town (just over a mile) is two annas, but most carries are those earning two or three pice. The price paid for carrying water to houses from the public fountains attached to the town water-supply of Mukalla is two pice a tin and three pice for two tins.

In Kanina, Hajr province, masons receive a rupee a day, and their assistants five annas. Carpenters are paid by piece work. Three pice is paid for carrying one load of water on donkey back from below the town. Field labourers are paid five dollars and food a month or by piece work.

Honey Industry.

231 263 438 [136] The only other product of economic consequence is the celebrated Du'an honey. Honey from Jerdan has an even greater local renown but is not produced in such quantities. At places like Tarim it is not considered possible to grow honey owing to the depradations of the Blue-cheeked Bee eater (*Merops persicus persicus*), one of the most common, as well as most beautiful, birds in the Hadhramaut. We did not observe this bird at all in the Wadi Du'an, where it is shot on sight.

231 263 The hives are tunnel-like structures fitted into the walls of the houses, and consist of circular sections about a foot in diameter. In the outside wall is a small hole through which the bees enter and leave the hives. Du'an enjoys two honey crops in a year; that of June, July and August being regarded as the best, for in it the bees collect the honey from the blossoms of the *'elb* trees. The honey obtained during the second crop, from November to March, is gathered from a small bush called *Qarmala*, and while it is [843] highly esteemed it is considered very heating and may not be eaten by pregnant women. If there is much rain during April and May, the bees make a black honey called *helb*, and they are said to grow much stronger, for they consume this honey themselves. The swarming of the bees was thus described by a bee-keeper: A second queen bee, whom they call *ab* or father, sometimes leaves the hive and goes a short distance away followed by some of the others. The bee-owner takes a mat and rolls it up in the shape of a hive, closing one end, and sprinkling inside a perfume of the perfumes used by the ladies. Approaching the swarm, he gently takes the queen in his fingers out of it and puts her into a small cage made for the purpose. The cage is then put inside the rolled mat. An assistant beats a tin or copper tray and the bees leave the place where they have swarmed and come to the queen. The swarm is now carried to a hive, the queen bee and her cage put into the hive, and in go the bees after her.

The bees collect the crop in 12 to 20 days, and when the owner sees the hive is full he fits on more sections until they have finished. Thirty to 40 pounds of honey are collected from a single hive at each crop. The honey is gathered by smoking the bees out from behind. When they have left, the exit hole is stopped up and the honey is taken, one section being left for the bees. In times of drought, honey is put into the hives for the bees to eat. The honey 251 is packed in comb and as liquid. In the former case two sizes of round tins are used, containing 4 lb. and 7 lb. respectively. An inside cover is soldered to the tins in Mukalla. Liquid honey is packed in cases of two kerosene tins. The value of the honey 435 in Mukalla is one rupee a pound. The total production is 90,000 to 100,000 pounds.

000 In view of the great renown which Du'an honey enjoys in South Arabia and the East Indies, and in view of the fact that it is much appreciated by Europeans, I had hoped that there might be

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boiled radishes is given to cattle with " cattle plague ". Donkeys are said to be susceptible to a very fatal disease.

Both cattle and camels are used in ploughing, the former usually in pairs and the latter singly. For the working of the wells, camels, cattle, donkeys, men and women, all combine, frequently in mixed teams, the animals being generally given a bunch of fodder at the top of the incline each time they reach it. Camels are also employed in turning the machines for extracting the simsim oil. The fact that fodder and water become more scarce north of the main Wadi necessitates a greater use of camels and donkeys are few and far between. Donkeys are uncommon also in the Wadi Maseila, for there is a three-day stretch without water in the middle of the Wadi, and below Buzun the flow is not perennial. Sheep and goats, however, are to be found everywhere, seeking their pasture under the care of women or girls.

Heald in his report states that no attention is paid to selection during the breeding season—which is usually in the early summer. With the sheep, one lamb is generally the average—although higher up in the Hadhramaut, amongst better pasture, ewes give two lambs. The sheep in the Meifa valley had black fleeces with the curly fat tails, although smaller than the Egyptian sheep. The goats are also smaller than in Egypt and originally came from the Yemen.

It was particularly noticeable in the Wadi Maseila that the live-stock were very much smaller than those elsewhere. The cows are little larger than a normal-sized calf, and the sheep and goats are also smaller than those in Du'an or to the north. The cattle are similar in size to those of Soqotra. The breeds of goats and sheep appeared to vary considerably over the whole country, but a black-and-white variety was the most common. His Highness the Qu'aiti Sultan has a few horses, both for riding and carriage work, and I saw one at Meshhed. There are probably not a dozen in the whole country.

Minor agricultural products.

Dates in the Hadhramaut are merely a hobby, and the entire local crop is consumed fresh during a season of two months, June and July. It may be recorded that a single date-tree in the Du'an valley sells from 400 to 1,000 dollars, many times its economic price. Dates form a staple article of diet and are therefore imported in large quantities.

The principal grain and other food crops are millet—*dirra* (great millet, *Sorghum vulgar*), *dukhn* (bullrush millet, *Pennisetum typhoideum*) and *keneb* or *msebeli* (Italian millet, *Setana italica*); lucerne; *jil jil* (sesame, not eaten by donkeys); *dijar* (a kind of bean); wheat (not eaten by donkeys or goats); and a little maize. The stalks are generically known as *qusab*, and the grain as *ta'm*. Hashish or grass is also grown for animals. The principal garden crops are sweet potatoes, onions, garlic, pumpkins, carrots, egg

by men and also serve for fodder. It is sold by *ma'bar*, a basket of about 30 to 40 lb. The price for eight baskets is from one to three dollars.

Hanīt (cooked and dried *tamad* fish). About fifteen to twenty *baḥars* of this are made a day in Mukalla and sold for local and up country consumption.

Safīf (dried *tarnak* and *tamad* fish). This used to be made only from the *tarnak* but now includes *tamad* as well.

Lakhm (dried shark). A great deal is prepared in Mukalla and one *frasila* costs one and a half to two and a-half dollars.

Rīsh (shark fins). A certain amount of these are exported to China.

The fish manufactories have been removed from the town of Mukalla, a sanitary measure for which credit is due to Sultan 'Umar. The drying-grounds and godowns for *wazīf* are situated beyond Therb, the camel park, outside the western gate. Here too there are old fish-oil tanks. The drying of fish for human consumption takes place at Al Khalf, east of the town, and here large godowns for storage and export are in process of completion. Dried fish forms a staple article of diet of the population. It is also a valuable manure and a widely-used fodder for animals. The extent of this coastal industry may be judged by the millions of gulls lining the seashore and the ever-pervading smell in the coastal towns.

Mr. Heald, referring to the fish-curing industry, writes " Along the coast in the various villages, a primitive fish-curing industry was carried on for sale in the interior, which consisted merely of digging a hole about one yard deep and half a yard broad, lined with stone; in this, wood was burnt and then the large-sized fish were placed in the hot ashes and covered over and left for 24 hours, afterwards taken out and sent up to the interior for sale. I was informed that the cured fish would keep for a considerable length of time, but, as a word of warning to intending travellers in this country, I strongly advise them not to allow any of their luggage especially bedding to be put on the same camel carrying the fish, as the smell was abominable and tainted everything it came into contact with. The Beduins on the journey fed their camels with the small sun dried fish and also partook of the same themselves without any attempt at cooking."

Visit of Agricultural and Geological Experts in 1919.

Agricultural Report.

At the request of the Sultan, then Sir Ghalib bin 'Awadh, K.C.I.E., experts were obtained from Egypt to examine and report on the agricultural and mineral possibilities of certain parts of his territory

484 It is four days journey from Shibam to Husn al 'Abr and five days from Husn al 'Abr to Nejran.

485 Routes from the coast are well provided with *siqayas*, or public fountains, near villages, and *qarifs* and *naqbas*, artificial pools and cisterns for rain-water, in the desert places. There are also of course many natural springs and water holes in the wadis. There are *muraba'as* (rest houses, called *madharab* in the low country and *sira* in the upper) at intervals approximately of a few hours' journey all over the principal routes crossing barren country. There are no definitely appointed stages, but caravans halt at places where they can graze and water their camels. They travel an average of six or seven hours a day.

4-12 From fifty to fifty-three thousand camels leave the camel park
489 called Therb outside the west gate of Mukalla every year for the interior. From Shihr the number is from 30,000 to 32,000. These figures include 5,000 to 8,000 in the former case and 2,000 in the latter of camels *carrying food for the camel-men*. Camels for this purpose are provided at the rate of about two to ten loaded camels.

Departures from and to the coast take place almost daily except during the month of Ramadhan. During that month caravans leave Mukalla and Shihr in order to arrive at their destinations by the feast day. Departures from and arrivals at Shibam for and from the interior are not so frequent.

From four hundred to a thousand loaded camels a month enter Shibam alone from the coast. It is estimated that a thousand annually come from San'ā in three or four caravans, but, as stated elsewhere, there is an increase if there is a demand.

An estimate given of the number of camels from other parts of the Protectorate and other parts of the Yemen is fourteen caravans of 1,000 camels each arriving mostly during the winter and spring. Caravans from Nejran are rare.

494 The 1934 fares from Mukalla to Du'an were as follows:—

484
435 1. By donkey, *wat'ā* and *'aser*, that is to say, riding over level country and over the rough and hilly places, standard rate. 15 to 16 dollars, but with variation according to weight, the limits each way being from 12 to 20 dollars.

2. By donkey, *watā*, i.e., riding only over the level country, standard fare, 10 to 11 dollars with limits according to weight of from 8 to 15 dollars.

Each passenger is allowed free transport of up to three *frasilas* (1 *frasila* = 20 lb.) of food.

3. By camel, *watā* and *'aser*, 10 dollars.

4. By camel, *watā*, 5 dollars.

There is no allowance for weight by camel but there is a free allowance of up to three *frasilas* of food.

The freight rates are: By camel, 10 dollars for 1 *bahar* of 20 *frasilas*; by donkey, 1½ dollars a *frasila*.

1: Ingrams G-5 (1934-35)1936 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

Besides the payment of fares, rations have to be provided for the men at the rate of one man for one animal in the case of donkeys, and one man for up to three animals for camels. For donkey-men the rations cost from ½ to 1½ dollars a head according to whether they eat with the passengers or not. For camel men the cost of the rations is 2 dollars a head as they take eight days over the journey instead of six.

Other normal fares are: Shibam to Ba Rumeidan 5 dollars a camel, the normal fare, but I was asked 25 dollars a camel, 5 dollars for the *muqaddam*, and 30 dollars for the Beduins' broker to accompany the caravan. Tarim to Seihut 20 dollars a camel. This route necessitated two *siyaras*, each costing 10 dollars, and a Seiyid who had to be given 60 dollars.

The Du'an route is worked by the Marāshida and Khāmā. The *Wadi Leisar route by the Hālka*, and the Wadi al 'Ain route by the 'Awābitha.

Motor Transport.

The following tracks are passable and regularly used by cars:—

	Miles.
Mukalla—seashore—Wadi Tifat—Landing ground—Fuwwa	9
Mukalla—shore—Wadi Mubekha—Sherij Bashhar—Wadi Tifat—Fuwwa—Lermi—Kherba	15·2
Mukalla—along the shore—Hali	12
Mukalla—Manawarih—Sherij Bashhar—Fuwwa—Lermi—Kherba	16·75
Mukalla—Dis al Mukalla—An Naq'a—Baqrein—Bakezebur	4
Mukalla—Dis al Mukalla—An Naq'a—Wadi Seded—Wadi Rukub—Buweish—Wadi al Feleq—Reida landing ground—Wadi Huweira—Shiheir—Wadi Ghasam—Gheil Ba Wazir	33·6
Mukalla—Khalf—Ras Mukalla—shore—Shihr (this route passes close to Shiheir and is an alternative route to Gheil Ba Wazir from either Mukalla or Shihr)	42·1
Mukalla—Dis al Mukalla—An Naq'a—Bir Ba Zambur—Harshiat—Tila as Sufla	10·4
Shihr—Dufeigha	2·7
Shihr—Wadi Rahba—Tubala	5·6
Shihr—Wadi Karangahem—Habis—Gheil Ba Wazir (to Habis 12 miles)	24
Shihr—Dis—Ras al Qarn	
Shibam—Hauta (al Qatn)—Haura—Meshhed—Hajarein	
Shibam—Hedhira—Hauta (Al Qatn)—Farudh—Hevin (this route continues to Hureidha)	25

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Āl 'Imran.

A tribe allied to the Tamimi. The *mansab* is Zein bin Hasan Balfaqih.

Manahil.

Clan.	*Section.*	*Places.*	*Nos.*	*'Aqil.*
Beit Kasim ...	Beit Ghānim	An Neid	40	'Aidha bin Tanāf.
	Beit al Batīn	do.	60	do.
	Beit Rasī'a	do.	150	do.
	Beit al Hamādī	do.	28	do.
	Beit Nahāi	An Neid and As Sōm	80	do.
	Beit Barakāt	As Sōm and Fughma	30	do.
	Beit Nas'ūd	do.	15	do.
Beit Mu'ashini	Beit Nōkhat	—	50	do.
	Beit al Bāqīya	Sena and An Neid	100	Yeslam bin Salim.
	Beit Sālmīn	do. do.	50	do.
	Beit al Qūeinisa	do. do.	60	do.
	Tammān	do. do.	100	do.
	Hushhūsh	do. do.	300	do.
	Muzābbar	do. do.	100	do.
	'Atūnf	An Neid	100	do.
	—	do.	100	—
Al Bawāqf ...	Samāh ar Raqāa	Near the coast	100	—
As Samāh ...	Samāh al Ghuthma	—	50	—
	Samāh Beit Khafr	At Al Masīla	180	—
	'Adūl	—	100	—
Tha'īn and Beit Farād.	—	—	250	—
Beit Dahein ...	—	—	50	—
Beit Qumsīt ...	—	—	500	—
Beni Sa'id ...	—	—	—	—
Beni Ujeil ...	—	Near Qabr Hud	—	—
			2,593	

The Manahil are a strong nomad tribe occupying the country east and north of the Hamumi and up into the Rub'al Khali. The southern part of Reida and the country from Damakh to upper Hadhramaut belong to them, and they have a few small settlements east of Qasm. They have an " A 'ʃ agreement with the Qu'aiti.

They breed camels extensively like their neighbours in the south-east, the Mahras, both for sale and for hire. Their camels are said to be finer and stronger than those of the Sei'ar, and the average price is estimated at about 200 rupees a camel. Female camels are seldom sold and are used both for breeding and riding. Women do not milk camels among the Manahil.

The tribe are said to raid as far as the Central Nejd and sometimes to the outskirts of Kuweit, passing the sandy stretch by routes known only to themselves. Bertram Thomas speaks of them raiding the Mahras in the steppe. We found that when passing through Mahra territory they declare themselves Tamimis. Bertram Thomas also says that " Bin Tannaf is the hereditary title of the

ʃ [See page 92, category 116 - - Analyst]

camels. The difficulty is being got over to some extent by experiments in making reinforced-concrete pillars, of which we saw two in construction at Seyyun. All the work is done by local labour, the travelled Seyyids training their masons. The interior walls of these houses, apart from elaborate decorations such as gold crowns and coloured flowers, consist of a lime plaster polished by smooth pieces of flint till it resembles marble.

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The foundations are dug 2 *dhirras* deep below the surface of the earth and 3 *dhirras* wide. Stones are used for the foundation mortared together with a mixture of wood ash and lime. In places where there is any doubt as to the solidity of the ground on which the house is to stand long pieces of *'elb* wood are laid in pairs lengthwise in the foundations. Wood for this purpose must be cut in the winter; if this is done it is said never to rot. The stone foundation or *sās* is continued for 2 *dhirras* above the level of the ground. When the building operations have reached this stage a foundation sacrifice of a goat or sheep is made on the walls. The house is centred round a solid pillar built on the same foundation as the walls. For a house of the dimensions proposed this pillar or *'arus el beit* will be $3\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 *dhirras* wide and of the same thickness from top to bottom. The stairs of the house invariably go up round the *'arus*. The bricks are made of clay mixed with straw, the standard size being $1\frac{1}{4}$ *dhirras* in length by $\frac{2}{3}$ in breadth by 4 *banan* or fingers' widths in thickness. When the clay of the required consistency and thickness for making the bricks has been laid out they are cut out by a wooden frame which makes two bricks at a time. The bricks cost five dollars a thousand.

The thickness of the walls of the first storey is $1\frac{7}{8}$ *dhirras*, of the second $1\frac{1}{2}$, of the third $1\frac{1}{4}$, of the fourth 1 *dhirra*, of the fifth $\frac{3}{4}$, of the sixth $\frac{5}{8}$, and of the seventh $\frac{1}{2}$ a *dhirra*. The bricks are mortared together with wet clay. As *'elb* wood grows to no great length the size of the room is determined to some extent by the length of the pieces available as girders. The girders are usually very short and supported by carved pillars each costing about twenty dollars.

8: Pike N-4 (no date) 1940 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

Himyarites was an important export center for incense and myrrh, has enough rainfall to support a thin growth of vegetation, largely incense trees. From this area and the surrounding country, at one time more abundantly watered, the priceless gum was most extensively collected in the past. It is still gathered today in small amounts, according to demand. The gum, which adheres to the bark, is har-

FIG. 20 Caravan loading. The three men at the right are arguing about the disposition of loads.

vested from varieties of the Burseraceae family, *Boswellia Carterii* and *B. Bhua-Dajiana*, divided by the Arabs into four grades.[4] Its value, which ranges from £80 to £10 a ton, depends on such qualities as color (red, green, and brown), size of the gum particles, and degree of adulteration. Just as the rubber gatherers of the Amazon debased latex with pebbles and gravel, so did the Arabs in the heyday of the incense trade, and to some extent even now, admix varying amounts of fine sand with the gum to increase its weight. Between March and August the trees are tapped by knife incision and a milky juice is extracted, which dries in three to five days.

Besides incense trees, a thin and scattered growth of bunch grass, camel's-thorn, and a cedarlike evergreen abundant in some dry wadies is found in the Hadhramaut. Date-palm groves, which cover many square miles, are mainly dependent on irrigation.

Sources of Water Supply

In addition to artesian water and the water obtained from wells, other sources of supply are available. One of these is the *siquaya*, a small, rectangular, concrete tank with a capacity of 20 or 25 gallons erected along caravan routes near towns and maintained by them as a public service. Another is the well or cistern excavated at the base

[4] Freya Stark: The Southern Gates of Arabia, [New York], 1936, pp. 10–11.

18:Ingrams G-3 (1934-36)1938 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

we first went up there they charged us two dollars for every skin of water we took and a dollar for four coconuts, which we were reduced to buying as we had no other food and were stuck for a couple of days waiting for cars from the Hadhramaut. On that first visit one very nearly shot me for trying to take his photograph, but now he is more than ready to pose. During the two nights we were waiting for cars the Ba Hasanis were a little nervous as they had murdered some one shortly before and were expecting an attack, so we had to build rough stone forts. When we had lent a hand we suggested that we should be paid for our labour as they had charged us for everything, but they did not like the idea and spent the night on sentry go droning monotonously to keep themselves awake. One good lady of the Ba Hasanis dresses as a man with dagger and all, and likes to be called Sheikh Salim. She is the only one of the women who does not veil. The habit of veiling varies a lot through the different tribes of the Hadhramaut and quite a number of them go uncovered.

When the peace was established it became possible to complete the Al Kaf road and it was opened by Sir Bernard Reilly in July last. It is now a toll road administered by a Board and half its revenue is being accumulated for capital works and improvements and half is being spent on maintenance. The maintenance expenditure is becoming very heavy as the daily buses do a lot of damage. The fees for the use of the road are designed not only to give revenue but also in conjunction with minimum fares to protect the Badawin camel traffic. Indeed goods are not allowed to be carried by road unless they are perishable, too heavy for camels, or urgent, in all of which cases the freight charged has to be higher than that which would be charged for camel transport.

It is about nine and a half to ten hours' solid driving from Shihr to Tarim, though of course one usually stops for a meal and that makes it about twelve hours. After leaving Ma'adi the road runs along the well-named Jol al Fiqra or Backboned Plateau, a ridge from which magnificent views to the sea 20 to 30 miles away and over deep wadis are obtained. After that the scenery tends to become monotonous, particularly when you have done the drive a dozen times or more, as it dodges endlessly round flat topped hills and wadi heads, and after the *'aqaba* of Ma'adi the remaining 130 miles or so are a series of levels from which you climb or descend by quite modest hills. Two hours on from Ma'adi you come to Reidat al Ma'ara, the country of the Ma'ara tribe, a collection of small scattered villages in country intersected by shallow wadis which offer some chance of cultivation. There are some wells, but the people depend very largely on *qarifs*, open water-holes built to collect the rain-water. The Ma'ara, who are friendly folk, are also distantly related to the Hamumis. They never give any trouble though there are one or two of them who are terrific litigants, and are always coming to see me in Mukalla or the Hadhramaut about cases which I have had investigated by several independent tribunals with invariably the same result. Most of these squabbles are land squabbles and that is a source of the greater part of the litigation in the Hadhramaut.

Reida is the place where one generally stops for lunch, as it is very nearly half way. The pleasantest place I think is under a tree near one of the *qarifs*,

18:Ingrams G-3 (1934-36)1938 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

IT IS A CURIOSITY OF DU'AN THAT ALL WOMEN DRESS
alike in long black dresses with coloured patches inserted in front and orange scarves over their heads. They are, too, the only women who affect nose rings similar to those usually worn on the fingers. Very few of them have ever left their valley, but many of them bemoaned the absence of husbands who frequently left them for years at a time.

The Seiyids lent her a magnificent white donkey to go on to Sif where we had stayed before, and the following day she was met by a friend and a car just before reaching Meshhed. Thence she rejoined me in Seiyun.

From Du'an Mr. Figgis and I flew across to 'Azzan over the upper reaches of the Wadi Hajr, which like the Wadi Maseila has perennial water nearly all its length. I had been to 'Azzan before, but this visit was very short, as the machine crashed on the landing-ground. It was a very artistic crash, and in Air Force parlance a complete write-off. Luckily none of the three of us in the machine were in the least hurt and the crash was far more alarming for Mr. Figgis and his pilot still up above, as it was some time before we found a comfortable way of climbing out of the ruins. I hope that in every crash I have I shall have as skilful a pilot as on that occasion. The crash was due to misguided zeal of the locals, for it was their own home-made landing-ground and they had raked up all the stones off the ground into a ridge along its edge, and it was this we hit as we landed. As ours was the machine with the wireless in it we swapped over into the other, which had landed safely, and flew back to Mukalla to organize assistance.

'Azzan is the capital of the Balhaf Sultan and is most picturesquely situated on a citadel rock by the side of the wadi. I was given a great reception on my first visit there with the firing of rifles and war whooping, which is much more a feature of welcomes in the Western Aden Protectorate than in the Eastern. As we walked from the landing-ground to the village the Artillery, a fine old bronze gun marked "A. Wilson. Cossipore. 1841," was brought into play. Our path led below it and it was really rather alarming, because with each discharge a shower of burning shirts and other old clothes, which had been used as wadding, was fired over us.

'Azzan is the only place where I have seen spears surviving, though my wife saw them in the Wadi 'Amd. One or two aged warriors came out with spears which they shook in martial fashion, threw into the air and caught again. Quite a number of old weapons survive in the Hadhramaut, for my wife also saw crossbows in the Wadi 'Amd and there are more of the old matchlocks in the country, some of them still in use, than in any other part of the Protectorate. The Hadhramaut seems to have turned over to modern weapons much more recently than the Western Protectorate, for most of the rifles, modern weapons, have wooden butts covered with goatskin fastened over them to take the recoil, a precaution far more necessary with matchlocks. It is worth recording perhaps that there is a heavy slump in the price of firearms. The ordinary Badawin rifle can be bought for as little as eight dollars with some ammunition thrown in, and the most modern rifles of continental manufacture, which eighteen months ago fetched an easy six hundred or more dollars when brought in from the Yemen, are now not bought at all and offers have been made of them for as little as fifty dollars.

The atmosphere of the Balhaf court is completely tribal; much more like

no poll tax is paid by the population as is the case in Sēwūn and Terīm. A tax of a quarter of a *riyāl*[1] is levied on every camel load that enters the gate of Shibām; also 4 % on sales of houses or land is due to the Sultan. Of the produce of the fields which depend on rain, 1 % is earmarked for the state treasury, *i. e.* the Sultan's pocket. The Government levies no tax on lands that are irrigated by their owners' efforts. The Qeᶜēṭī Sultan of Makalla owns much land in his kingdom: his tobacco fields at Ghēl Bā Wazīr, near Sheḥēr, bring in about 30.000 *riyāl* a year, and he owns many palm-groves in Wādī Ḥaḍramaut. Yet the greater part of his income comes from Bombay and Hyderabad, where he has extensive land and house property, and he receives 1500 *rupees* a month from the Niẓām of Hyderabad for his services as commander of the troops.

These great riches of the Qeᶜēṭīs are the source of their power. The existence of a central authority is, in spite of many abuses, noticeable in their territory. It makes itself felt whenever urgently necessary and has no difficulty in holding its own against the Āl Kathīr, who are divided amongst themselves and are lacking in strong financial support.

The Sultan of Shibām only receives a salary from the Sultan of Makalla, to whom he is bound by family ties.

The military forces of the Qeᶜēṭī consist, in peace time, of 5000 soldiers, of whom 2000 are negro slave soldiers. In Shibām only 100 of them are in regular service, whilst some 500 are on reserve in case of need. These latter live, as a rule, in good houses all around el-Qaṭn.

The Sultan estimates the number of souls in Shibām, el-Qaṭn and the villages between them, at 20.000. These are all the inhabitants of the State of Shibām, exclusive, however, of the Bedouin tribes who are allied by treaty with his Government.

We showed Sultan ᶜAlī the books about Ḥaḍramaut that we had brought with us and a few English air photographs. It was then apparent how little the ruler and his entourage knew

[1] At the time of our visit a *riyāl* had about the same value as an Indian *rupee*.

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

342 mud steps leading up to them. Signs of intimate contact with foreign countries, Singapore as well as Java, may be noticed 439 both in the exteriors and interiors of these palaces. For instance, it appears to be the existing fashion to have the doors sent ready-made from Java and Singapore. Transport of these very heavy doors and window-frames is certainly expensive and difficult, for the strongest and largest camels have to be selected for it, but the supply of wood in Ḥaḍramaut is small and poor in quality and could not have provided for the many great new buildings of Terīm in so short a time. [435] This extra expense is permissible because the rest of the 465 building costs in Ḥaḍramaut is small. Manual labour is very 331 cheap in this desperately poor and overpopulated country. 342 Even first-rate professional men, architects included, do not earn more than a very moderate daily wage. The chief building material is mud, which can be dug up everywhere close by the house that is to be built. As everything is covered with a plaster of mud, the most crooked branches of *nibq* and desert shrubs can be used for roof construction and similar details. The trunks of date-palms are chiefly in use for ceilings and supporting pillars. We only saw wooden pillars with wooden capitals and cross-beams in the very old, dilapidated castles; the carved, dark-brown wood found in these, with their ceilings of split and interwoven branches, painted in rust-red, white, and black, are certainly very beautiful; yet, owing to the scarcity of wood, one must make shift with the trunks of date-palms. Ceilings, pillars and cross-beams are nowadays covered with a plaster of mud, and this, again, is painted over in fresh, soft colours. The new buildings, consequently, make a gayer and lighter impression, both without and within, and they are more cleanly, but something of the old beauty has vanished. Present-day builders have become real masters in modelling mud and in whitewash work. Pillars made of palm-trunks are transformed by them, as if by magic, into vigorous-looking, round columns with fine capitals.

there was also no large supply of fodder; we could only buy thirty bundles of dried *dhura* stalks, which cost us one *riyāl*. The *riyāl* seemed to be the only coin in use; for a half *riyāl* one could buy nothing. Our help was asked for a sick camel which, we were told, had been bitten by a snake. The local camel doctor had smeared the animal with a black salve and had cut off half of its ears. A sick man, who was obviously suffering from elephantiasis, told us that he had been hissed at by a snake. With regret we had to explain that we travelled without our medicine-chest and were unprovided with means for helping against the dangerous snakes of the country.

3. ʿRĒDET ED-DEYYIN.

We went on our way very soon, in the hope of reaching er-Rēda, the central point of the settlements of the Deyyin Bedouins, that evening. There lives the chief whose acquaintance we had made at Bā Ṣurra's castle. It was long after sundown when we approached Shēkh ʿUthmān's village, Nejēdēn. We stumbled on through the darkness, following the camels, till we came to cultivated land with a few dried-up *sibq* trees dotted about here and there. The village showed no sign of a friendly, inviting light; the fortress-like houses resembled nothing but black cubes. Directly the watch-dogs heard us they proceeded to attack us, barking furiously, and this noise roused life in the houses: first there were questioning voices and then a few lights. We kept the dogs at bay with stones and, aided by information proceeding from the closed houses, found our way to Shēkh ʿUthmān's dwelling, which was a miserable-looking, low building with nothing attractive about it. We awakened the inhabitants by our shouts and, with distrustful aversion, they admitted us to a large room with an earthen floor where we sat down on our travelling rugs. Our hopes of a speedy sleep after this very tiring day

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden
Hadhramaut MM2

651 Revenue and expenditure of local governments in the Eastern Aden Protectorate which have adopted regular accounting methods are as follows:

Revenue

(*a*) Mukalla Government	. . . .	Rs. 21,47,767
(*b*) Sai'un "	. . . .	2,36,895
(*c*) Wahidi "	. . . .	78,333

Expenditure

652

(*a*) Mukalla Government	. . . .	Rs. 22,24,947
(*b*) Sai'un "	. . . .	1,91,199
(*c*) Wahidi "	. . . .	69,376

Assets and Liabilities

Investments Mukalla Government. . .	Rs. 35,00,000
Debts (His Majesty's Government Loans) .	46,783
Investment Sai'un Government . . .	3,00,000
Debts (His Majesty's Government Loans) .	34,540
Investment Wahidi Government . . .	60,000
Savings Banks and Co-operative Societies .	Nil

[453 474]

Chapter 5: Currency and Banking

435 Indian rupees and riyals (or Maria Theresa dollars) are the currency used, the 1947 rate of exchange being Rs. 2.6.0. to the M.T. Dollar.

Chapter 6: Commerce

439 The principal imports are grains, flour, rice, dates, sugar, sesame oil, tea, kerosene, spices, cloth and cotton piece-goods, tobacco, cigarettes, soap, glassware, etc.; the principal exports are coffee, skins and hides, lime, cattle, ghee, sheep, goats, fish, etc.

Imports and exports for the Eastern Aden Protectorate during 1947 were as follows:

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden
Hadhramaut MM2

Market Conditions

Food grain prices showed no reduction during the year. Prices at the main coastal centres of Aden and Mukalla fluctuated between £25 and £37 per ton, the higher rates being recorded in Mukalla towards the end of the year, when famine conditions were confirmed in the Hadhramaut. 435

The price of sesame seed fell from the high levels of 1947, and the price during the year varied between £60 and £70 per ton.

The Maria Theresa dollar exchange dropped 23½ per cent at the end of the year, Rs. 186 being asked for 100 dollars.

Demonstration and Experiment

In the Hadhramaut the introduction of barley passed the third season; it may be claimed that the crop has found favour and that it is most likely to become well established in the economy of the country. The object of this introduction was to obtain a more dependable crop for winter sowing. Wheat was in the past the winter crop, and always a risky one owing to the danger of rust attacks. Barley in southern Arabia is regarded as a safer crop in all respects, but for some reason it escaped the attention of farmers in the Wadi Hadhramaut. 242 243 248

In Abyan cotton variety X1730A was grown on a field scale on Abyan Board tenants' land. The crop was sown on land inundated in August with approximately three feet of water. No other water was applied after sowing. At the end of the year, the crop appeared most promising.

Plant Introduction

Three-hundred and fifty apricot, 350 Japanese plum, and 24 peach trees were imported from South Africa, for sale to farmers on the Audhali Plateau.

One hundred citrus trees were imported from Eritrea, for planting and distribution in Abyan.

Development Schemes: The Abyan Board

Work on improvement of the systems of the Na'aza and Ba Tes canals was carried out in the first nine months of the year. A stone regulator at Ba Tes head an ' a series of stone drops and regulators were installed on this system and on part of the Na'aza system. Much work remains to be done, and in a manner which will allow of the improvement to be incorporated in the general plan of development . . the area. 242 241

Following further examination of the area by Mr. N. Simansky, Irrigation Adviser, it was possible to submit an application for a loan of £250,375 from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. Sanction for this loan was obtained in July, and work started in the last quarter of the year. Machinery and cement were ordered, while local purchases were made from ex-War Department stocks held in Aden. At the end of the year, two Agricultural Officers, one of whom acted as manager to the Board, one British and three Italian surveyors, and one British accountant, together with a large Arab staff were employed on the scheme.

The development programme of the Board continued side by side with

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden
Hadhramaut mm2

to the Hadhramaut. This winter rainfall enormously improved the range conditions over the mountain areas of the Protectorate and produced exceptionally good pasturage for the desert tribes in the north-east. 132

Large acreages of winter cereals and fodder crops were grown. The year finished with the whole of the Protectorate in good condition. 241

Livestock started the year in many areas in a starved condition, and in the east with their numbers greatly reduced. At the end of 1949 their condition was restored, but numbers, particularly of small stock, were low. 231

Plant Pests and Diseases

As a result of the favourable rains and the continuance of sorghum cultivation through the Saif season, to the flood crop of the Kharif, and into the lift irrigated crops planted in autumn, 1949, there was a serious increase in the stalk borer population, and an estimated loss of up to 50 per cent of the crop resulted in the Hadhramaut lift irrigated areas. 731 242

Animal Health

No outbreak of rinderpest or other serious animal disease was recorded during 1949. 731

Market Conditions

With the devaluation of the pound the value of the Maria Theresa dollar rose nearly 30 per cent in relation to rupee currency. Produce prices remained high until autumn, 1949, when a sharp drop occurred in many districts following the good harvests. Sorghum grain on the Aden market averaged about £35 per ton throughout 1949. 435 435

Demonstration and Experiment

A field trial with X1730A cotton grown from Abyan raised seed was very successful in 1949; some 1,750 lbs. of seed cotton per acre was obtained from scattered plots totalling 82 acres which had received one watering only before planting. The crop was planted in the months of September and October, and grew rapidly. In some fields plants reached a height of over 6 feet and carried an enormous crop. No important pests or diseases were seen. 242

The crop was classified by the Chief Classifier of the Sudan Plantation Syndicate, who was flown over for the purpose; he placed about half the crop in grades 3 and 4, and the balance in grades 5 and 6, basing his classification on Sudan Gezira standard for L type cottons. The graded crop was sold to the Raw Cotton Commission.

Varieties of cane, introduced in small quantities from Mauritius in the previous season, were cut in September, 1949, and planted out in observation plots.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden
Hadhramaut MM2

478 The Ahwar Farmers' Association was started with the nomination by the Regent of a chairman and managing committee of 12, assisted by a secretary. The committee functioned during 1952 as a kind of Agricultural Board to deal with local irrigation arrangements, cotton growing and marketing, and development work. It provided a useful link between the Department of Agriculture and the farming community.

FISHERIES

226 The same type of fishing is carried out in the Protectorates as in the Colony with more emphasis on beach seines. The most extensive fishery is the coast from Mukalla eastwards to beyond Qishn. In the winter months sardine of the Sardinella and Dussumreria types are found together with *Scomberomerus spp.* and tunny. The Western Protectorate coast in winter generally supports an intensive fishery for anchovy (*Stolephorus indicus*) by beach seines. In addition a small shrimp is also caught by this method. The fisheries are localised but seasonal fishermen tend to follow the shoals along the coast.

Encircling gill nets, bottom nets and lift nets are little used in the Protectorate as local opinion is strongly opposed to methods of increasing yields for fear that the fish will become extinct.

439 Fishing is financed in the same way as in Colony by merchants.
226 Fish, surplus to normal requirements, is salted and dried for export to
255 India, Africa and Ceylon but there is considerable local consumption
254 inland. Dried sardines are used for camel fodder, tobacco fertiliser and human consumption. One fish factory for canning tunny and sardines, which was established in Mukalla in 1950 and which used an Italian trawler for supplies, has had to close down owing to lack of capital. Fish meal was also produced at this factory. No cold storage or ice-making plants exist.

435 Marketing arrangements are the same as in the Colony : fish prices
226 are about 50 per cent lower for the consumer in the Protectorate.

The sardine fishery which had failed for three years showed signs of revival in the early winter of 1951 along the Eastern Protectorate coast. Shoals of larger fish were also abundant and the upward trend has again been noticed in the winter of 1952.

654 The Fisheries Department is described on page 27. It has surveyed
226 little of the Protectorate waters except by Danish seine netting. The results have been exceptionally poor owing to the rough nature of the bottom. Plans for extensive and intensive work in the Protectorates have been delayed because of schemes in the Colony. A certain amount of work has been done in Western Protectorate waters from Perim to beyond Shuqra but only one area showed signs of promise with Danish seine nets : half a ton of *Lethrinus spp.* was the best single individual haul. The fishermen from Aden Colony range into the Western Protectorate and on three nights at the end of the Shamal of 1952, with assistance from the Fisheries Department vessel, secured 14½ tons of *Scomberomerus spp.* from the west of Aden. These co-operative efforts will be resumed in the Shamal of 1953.

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Hadhramaut MM2

Currency

436 The coins in use, according to Van den Berg, are :

Copper.	Rub' Khamsīyah	= ±0·005 florin.
„	Khamsīyah	= ±0·02 „
Silver.	Haraf	= 8 Khamsīyah.
„	Oqīyah	= 2 Haraf.
„	Qarsh	= 7½ Oqīyah.
Gold.	None.	

There is also a coin, current in some districts, called Buqshah, worth ½ Khamsīyah ; and a copper coin, current only at Shiheir, the Diwani, worth ⅛ Khamsīyah.

The five-franc piece, in place of the Qarsh, is popularly current all over the Hadhramaut, and the 10-cent pieces of the Dutch East Indies are largely in use.

435 556 Money has a high purchasing power in the Hadhramaut, or, in other words, everything of native production is incredibly cheap ; the only dear articles are horses and arms. There are no great fortunes in the Hadhramaut, with the exception of that of the Jemadar of Shiheir ; his resources may be placed at several millions of florins, invested mostly, however, in India. The Sultan of Seyyūn possesses a fortune of some hundreds of thousands, mainly property in the country, and there are some few individuals with fortunes nearing 100,000 florins. Amongst the Bedouins money is rare.

Weights and Measures

804 The weights are as follows :

Qaflah	= ±	2½ grammes.
Oqīyah	=	10 Qaflah.
Rotl	=	12 Oqīyah (16 Oqīyah at Makalla and Shiheir).
Raf'ah	=	12 Rotl.
Farāsilah	=	2 Raf'ah.
Bahār	=	12½ Farāsilah.
Jābir	=	2 Bahār.

The measures of length are :

Shibr	= ±	16 centimetres.
Dhrā'	=	3 Shibr.
Sāqit	=	5 Dhrā'.
Farsakh	=	80 Sāqit.